

Governor's Commission on Family Farms
October 31, 2000
Kentucky History Center, Frankfort, Ky.
10:00 AM EST

Members present: Jim Naive, Chairman; Bill Atkins; John Berry; Ron Catchen; Sharon Furches; Kirby Hancock; Mark Haney; Hampton "Hoppy" Henton; Denise Hoffman; Janet Johnson; David Kash; Chris Kummer; Mattie Mack; Luther Mason; Al Pedigo; Mike Stivers, representing Commissioner Billy Ray Smith; Jeff Hall, representing Dean C. Oran Little; Patrick Rupien, representing Karen Armstrong Cummings; Bob Sparks, and Bonnie Tanner.

Absent were: Karen-Armstrong Cummings, Alice Baesler, John-Mark Hack, Don Halcomb, Susan Harkins, Sylvia Lovely, William Brandon Reed, and Allen D. Rose.

Chairman Naïve called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m., Angela Whitehouse, board secretary called roll.

Minutes were approved from previous meeting.

Joel Neaveill, staff member informed members John-Mark Hack, Director of Governor's Office of Agriculture Policy would not be attending meeting. He would be meeting with Dr. Ray Goldberg of Harvard University to discuss the state comprehensive plan for investment of state agriculture funds.

Joel Neaveill introduced new staff members, Angela Whitehouse, administrative assistant and Ashley Davis, Public Communications Director. Members were requested to have pictures taken for the web site that is under construction.

Jim Naïve, Chair informed members of the goal for the meeting would be to cover the Strategic Planning Committee, chaired by Bill Atkin, Tobacco Committee, chaired by John Berry and Education Committee, chaired by Ron Catchen. Concluding with the approval of the draft copy of the annual report.

***Kentucky Center for Agriculture Development and Entrepreneurship:**

Joel Neaveill, staff member briefed commission on the Agriculture Development Board meeting, which was held on Oct. 20th at Jenny Wiley State Park. Agriculture Development Board approved funding for the Kentucky Center for Agriculture Development and Entrepreneurship program. This program was outlined in HB611, authorizing the development of an entrepreneurship program. In that program over two years is a four million dollar pool for a cost share feasibility studies for entrepreneurship efforts for farmers. This is the first step to be taken to help look at new ideas for agriculture. *The program is outlined in the handout that each member received.

Jeff Hall, University of Kentucky Agriculture, added that recognition should be given to Don Halcomb, committee member for following this program and helping to get it established. Tools will be available through this program for farmers to go to for direct assistance. Fifteen existing SBDC centers will be utilized for assistance to farmers. Staffing for this program will be as soon as possible, looking at the beginning of the upcoming year.

Hoppy Henton, praised Don Halcomb for his part in developing the entrepreneurship program, it is the missing link for those who are trying to get involved in any type of new agriculture business structures.

Jeff Hall, closed the discussion by informing the members that the Agriculture Development board also spent a lot of time discussing the state comprehensive plan, which counties have been waiting on. The state has put together an outline for a final draft to be approved at the next meeting on December 1, 2000. Another priority will be for forms to be developed and approved to access the money that is sitting in county accounts. All information and application forms will be available on the new internet web site that the Governor's Office of Agriculture Policy is working on.

***Farm to Table Conference:**

Janet Johnson, briefed members on the Farm to Table conference held in Bowling Green. There were approximately five hundred participants which included producers and consumers. The conference was a huge success and extended invitation to members to suggest more ideas. Ms. Johnson closed by thanking members for their participation.

***Strategic Planning Committee:**

Bill Atkins, chair strategic planning committee, reported to members that the committee took the executive order given to the commission by the governor and went through each item to determine if the commission was following it. In conclusion the committee agreed that the commission was following the executive order by working on ideas and following through with them. Ms. Atkins, used the Farm to Table and the Entrepreneurship program as examples of ideas that have come together.

Recommendations from the committee were that the commission advise the Agriculture Development Board. Atkins, consulted with Jeff Hall, C. Oran Little, Jim Naïve, and Denise Hoffman.

Lunch: 12:00

Kentucky History Center performed play for commission.

Commission reconvened at 1:15.

Jim Naïve, Chair requested John Berry to discuss what the Tobacco Committee met on and decided.

***Tobacco Committee:**

John Berry, Chair, informed the commission that the Tobacco Committee met and recommends that the existing program be amended to eliminate the right to lease a quota. The committee recommends to the Governor with full agreement from the commission that the current tobacco program be continued but modified under the four conditions outlined in the handout that each member received.

John Berry, then made a motion to recommend that Governor Patton refrain from including the phrases market economy, foreign trade, and world market in his testimony to the President's Tobacco Commission. The motion was seconded by David Kash and was approved unanimously.

Jim Naïve, Chair, thanked the tobacco committee for their work and asked the staff to work with tobacco committee to put in finalization a recommendation for the Governor to submit to the Presidential Commission.

***Education Committee:**

Jim Naïve, Chair, requests member Ron Catchen to update the commission on the Education committee meeting and their recommendations.

Ron Catchen, chair, briefed commission on the recommendations for the future of agriculture education that will assist with financial planning and personal development skills through both county-based and farm-based programs.

These recommendations include working with the different agriculture representatives as well as Land Grant Universities and Regional Universities to provide adequate education pertaining to agriculture. These plans are outlined in the handout given to commission members.

Jim, Naïve, Chair, thanked all commission members for attending meeting and with no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30.

*All handouts are available upon request at the Governor's Office of Agriculture Policy.